

The Salinas Rodeo is the largest rodeo in the state of California with more than 50,000 visitors each year. Locals take great pride in the event and insist on its Spanish pronunciation as the "row-day-oh."

In 1911, civic boosters organized the first rodeo as a Wild West Show and attracted a trainload of visitors from San Francisco. Crowds steadily grew in the following years and it became one of the largest rodeo competitions in the world. Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Rodeo organizers canceled the event for the duration of the war. It wasn't until 1947 that the organizers were able to restart the show.

The Salinas Rodeo is held every July and includes a range of rodeo competitions, including professional bull riding, bareback riding, bull fighting, barrel racing, saddle bronc riding, steer wrestling and team roping. Nearly 1,000 contestants compete every year from all over the United States and Mexico for prize money totaling \$300,000.

The event also includes other events including the Kiddie Kapers Western themed kids costume parade, the Colmo del Rodeo lighted night parade, the downtown horse parade and the Miss California Rodeo Salinas pageant. In 2008, the Rodeo was honored with their induction into the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame.

The Rodeo has also been an active partner in the community. Through the Rodeo, local schools and charities are given the opportunity to earn money every year by selling goods during the event. The Rodeo also gives out scholarships annually to several high school seniors. Over the years, these community contributions have totaled over \$250,000. And the Salinas Valley community has embraced the Rodeo, making the event its own and providing more than 1,200 volunteers each year.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I want to hold up the California Rodeo Salinas as a cultural event that brings joy and prosperity to its community every year. May its continued success inspire many more generations to celebrate our nation's cultural heritage and participate in its future.

HONORING MR. NORMAN WEISS

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2010

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Mr. Norman Weiss, a constituent of my congressional district who has dedicated his life to serving his community, his nation, and the spirit of volunteerism. Mr. Weiss admirably served his country for 22 years in the United States Navy until his retirement in 1967. He has contributed both at home as a boxing coach at the Willow Grove Naval Air Station and abroad as a volunteer for more than a decade at a South Korean orphanage.

The loss of his brother, Mel, during the Korean War inspired Mr. Weiss to travel to Korea to see the country and meet the people his brother had fought to defend. While visiting, Norm began a friendship with a Korean orphanage that would bring him back to South Korea each year during his leave from the Navy. His time in South Korea was spent not relaxing on a much deserved vacation, but de-

voting his energy and knowledge to the orphanage.

A few years after Mr. Weiss retired as a Chief Petty Officer he moved to Korea to continue his work with orphans. Under his supervision, a new pool was constructed at the orphanage. With the help of nearby American service members other improvements were made to the orphanage such as the renovation of the kitchen and dining area. Mr. Weiss's assistance was so valued by the orphanage that he was made honorary Vice-Superintendent. In 1980 Norm was officially recognized for the work that had made an undoubtedly positive impact on the lives of many children; he was given a Civil Merit Medal by the Mayor of Pusan on behalf of the President of South Korea.

After 12 years in South Korea, Mr. Weiss returned to Pennsylvania. He continued his dedication to strengthening the friendship between Americans and Koreans by teaching English as a second language to Koreans in his community. He also began to volunteer his time to the Willow Grove Naval Air Station as a boxing coach at the base's gym. In the years he has spent providing guidance and expertise to the base, Mr. Weiss has also given considerable financial support to the base's Morale, Welfare, and Recreation department. Despite recent health concerns Mr. Weiss continues to spend time in the base's gym, teaching young boxers the techniques and perseverance needed to achieve their goals.

I am honored to represent Mr. Weiss in Congress and to know that Mr. Weiss has spent his life proudly representing our country abroad. I congratulate him on a lifetime of service to community, country, and international cooperation and friendship.

HONORING AND CONGRATULATING STAFF SERGEANT ZACKARY T. FILIP FOR WINNING THE ARMY TIMES 2010 SOLDIER OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 15, 2010

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today and congratulate Staff Sergeant Zackary T. Filip, of Denton, Texas, for winning the 2010 Army Times Soldier of the Year award.

The United States has the strongest and best military in the world, and it is because of the service and dedication of members of our armed services like SSGT Filip that this is true. Each year, Military Times honors five "Everyday Heroes"—service members who demonstrate pride, dedication and courage beyond what is expected. The awards are given to service members who exhibit exemplary achievement beyond the call of duty, a high level of professionalism, concern for fellow service members, and commitment to community service. SSGT Filip has embodied each of these qualities during his service in the U.S. Army.

On November 5, 2009, while stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, SSGT Filip found himself in the middle of the worst-ever mass killing on a U.S. military post. He came upon Sgt. Kim-

berly Munley, who had just shot-down the alleged gunman. SSGT Filip had no medical supplies with him, so he used his belt to create a tourniquet to stop the bleeding from a gunshot wound in Sgt. Munley's leg. SSGT Filip's actions are credited with saving Sgt. Munley's life. But SSGT Filip's assistance did not end there—he continued working with others to treat 55 other victims shot that day.

This award is not SSGT Filip's first honor, though. During a tour in Afghanistan in 2008, on Christmas Eve, SSGT Filip was on a joint patrol with Afghan army soldiers. The group came under gunfire, and Filip and a fellow medic, during the course of the battle, spent three hours running from position to position, under heavy fire, to treat four wounded Afghans. Their heroic and selfless actions that day earned SSGT Filip a Bronze Star and an Army Commendation for Valor.

SSGT Filip is currently the Platoon Sergeant for the U.S. Army's 4th Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment's medical platoon at Ft. Hood, TX. He currently lives in Copperas Cove, TX, with his wife, Briana, and three young sons, Grayson, Gabriel and Gavin.

Madam Speaker, I rise today with the highest esteem to honor and congratulate Staff Sergeant Zackary Filip for his well-deserved award, the 2010 Army Times Soldier of the Year award. May God bless SSGT Filip and all of the brave men and women fighting in harm's way to protect Americans and our liberties and freedoms, and may God bless America.

PERMANENT RADIO FREE ASIA AUTHORIZATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL E. McMAHON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 30, 2010

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 3104, which amends the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994 to give the Broadcasting Board of Governors permanent control of grants to operate Radio Free Asia.

Radio Free Asia is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to provide accurate and relevant news to those living in Asian countries where freedom of the press is restricted since 1996.

This organization is vitally important to the intellectual and political development of the peoples of Asia. Democracy cannot flourish without a free press, which is why Radio Free Asia is so important to those living under authoritarian regimes.

For this reason, totalitarian governments in Asia spend millions of dollars each year trying to jam Radio Free Asia. Despite attempts to suppress its influence, Radio Free Asia has been greatly successful in fulfilling its mission—even reaching remote regions of North Korea, arming refugees and peace builders with information from the free world.

Radio Free Asia has been the recipient of numerous awards, such as the Annual Human Rights Press Award International Activist Award and Edward R. Murrow Regional Award, both of which have been presented to Radio Free Asia multiple times.

I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to support this bipartisan bill.